

1849

Hale, Alexander

Susan Hale

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Aunt Lucy was there, and Robert made himself useful by chalking the floor for the dancing, and in ornamenting the rooms with painted lanterns &c.

Next Tuesday is Charlotte's wedding!! a great event
in the family - of course - Annie Frothingham and Louisa Adams
are to be bridesmaids, and Edward Everett and a navy man
grooms men - ~~Other~~ family are all invited -

The ceremony takes place at 12 M. and the happy pair depart on the wedding tour in the afternoon. Charlotte has received a great many handsome presents, and a great deal of silver, which is represented as ^{being} very splendid.

Lucretia is spending Sunday and Rainsford Island, which is the place where the Hospital used to be but is not now. It is a distinguished sea-shore place, and Lucie Lyman is staying there - so she sent for Lucretia to spend Sunday with her. It is rather cool for the sea-shore, but Lucretia took many shawls - She will be back to-morrow.

I am now about in the middle of my long vacation and of course enjoying it very much - There is but one drawback which is that at the beginning of the vacation all the girls were made to pledge themselves, by Mr Emerson, to read some one standard work of literature, in the course of the vacation, chosen out of a list which he gave us - I imagine me, if you please at all intervals, pegging away upon "Aiken's Court of Queen Elizabeth" - a work of great statistical merit, which also recommends itself to parents, guardians, and teachers by its exceeding dullness and want of incident - Perhaps it may induce you to learn that Queen Elizabeth was born Sept. 7. 1533.

Unfortunately I have not got to when she died, but I'll certainly tell you when I come to that refreshing fact, for it seems to me that it must be near the end of the book. Sarah sends her love to you, and wishes me to thank you for her nice letter, which she got some days ago. You probably received one ^{from her} written at or near the same time that yours was. Mother

begs you will write soon, to tell us of the state of the weather, at Pensacola, for
your accounts are ~~trifling~~ ^{trifling} of the heat - Friday was Papa's birth-day - we had
a fine birth-day cake
made, frosted
and dilled in
Catharine's best manner.
I wish you were here
eat a piece -
It was excellent
And you had a
cake, in your far
off regions, on your
birth-day -
May write lots -
There is always
great rejoicing
when "a letter
from Elly"
is announced -
Good bye - All
send love, as
does also yrs
ever Julie -

Sunday Evening, - August 18th 1850.

Dear Elly -

It is a long time since I have written
to you, - so I will use this Sunday evening for the
purpose. It has been very cold - for the season - all
day, and papa has a little fire crackling in his grate
in the study - the heat of which is very grateful - This
will be interesting to you, with your thermometer at 100 -
I wish that we could exchange a little of our east
wind for your heat.

Lucetta and I have been to Thisselwood
for our yearly fortnight, since I wrote last. We had
a most delightful visit, as always there - Charlie was
there nearly all the time, too, his college labors being
over. One day we had a nice expedition round Cape Ann.
We started in the morning in a carriage, which held
all of us, - the three King girls, Elisa Gilman, who is
staying there, Lucetta and I, with Charlie on the Coach
box with the driver. We went ^{through} Gloucester, Rockport, and
Pigeon Cove, by a beautiful road that kept along the
shore all the time, and at one, we ate a pic-nic
supper on the rocks, and then went on through Squamscott
Gloucester again, where we met John in his buggy -
We stopped at the Pavillion at Gloucester, and bowed
in the alley there for an hour - and then home -
The Pavillion is beautifully situated, - were you ever

There, [?] directly on a long beach - with steps leading to it from the house. There are a good many people there this summer. It is 47 miles round the Cape, - a long ride for one day. We got back to a jolly tea, such as you have often witnessed at Thisselwood.

While Charlie was there, he arranged on the piazza a "hook and ring" - like one at Lebanon, which perhaps you remember. The hook is fastened in a post, and the ring hangs from a string at a little distance, - the object is to catch the ring on the hook. It was a favorite amusement. We had long classes, and got up and down, - and at last became quite skillful. At first it was considered very wonderful to get 4 out of 25, but at last, John one day got 16 out of 25.


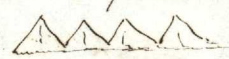
We had delightful sea-baths every day. I am very skillful in swimming this year, and as always enjoyed the bathing very much.

Lizzie King regretted much, that it is so long since she has heard from you. - She says that you owe her a letter, and that it is a long time since she wrote.

But I must tell you of a new engagement, which came out while we were at Thisselwood. Anna Loring and George Wells!! It occasioned quite an excitement, although it has been anticipated for some time, as he has been quite devoted to Anna all winter. He had a great deal of joking about the new Cousin, introduced into the King family. The Loring's have just gone down to board at the house opposite the King's, for the rest of the summer. Last Thursday the city was in great excitement on account

of the Funeral Ceremonies for General Taylor. We had a great Procession, beginning with a great Catafalque or Funeral Car, drawn by 12 horses, 3 abreast, and made of 100 yards of black velvet. The effect was rather splendid, but a

little ginger-bready. A detachment from our house went to Mrs. Gardner's, in Park St. to see the procession. Papa went in a carriage, with black gloves on, as hall leavers, ~~to~~ with many other gentlemen of distinction, as you will see in the papers.


General Lincoln's horse was got from Worcester, to represent Old Whitley, - but he being reluctant, and inclined to repose in the gutters by the way, an animal of less fire ~~was~~ and spirit, was selected for the purpose and was led through the streets in order of procession, with the jack boots reversed.  Then there were fire-men, and odd fellows, and Sons of Temperance in the usual quantities, and a Cavalcade at the end which was very pretty. Major Sherman's light Artillery made an important part. ^{Company} They came to Boston, for the purpose of the procession, and ~~was~~ encamped on the hill on the Common for several nights. Their tents looked very prettily especially in the evening. Lucietta and I went up with Charlie one moonlight night to see them. They looked very like the tents we used to make with playing cards  for the purpose of knocking them down.

The streets were dressed in mourning in a good many places. The Loemont house, Reeve House and Montgomery Houses, ~~had~~ had a great deal of black Cambic ~~draped~~ on them, and looked very imposing. Mr. Abbot Lawrence's and other private houses in the route of the procession were also dressed in mourning. Cannon was fired, and the bells tolled all day, and the streets filled ~~up~~ with people from out of town - so that there was a great deal of confusion and bustle.

Aunt Lucy has been making Robert a visit at Nantucket. She spent a week or ten days there, and had a very nice time. Robert seems to enjoy himself very much, and to like his situation. The officers of the ship that Robert belongs to, gave a fancy ball at the Hotel while

with you on the history of the ancient Gauls
or ~~some~~ such old fogies, in any language
you please, either Ancient or modern Greek,
Latin, Italian, German, Spanish, Hebrew or
French -

Alas! no vests have I painted for many
a long day! I have not painted a great deal
lately - Only a paper doll for Sarah Phillips
with Bistre ringlets and vermillion lips. I
painted a breast pin for Augusta sometime ago.

The device was two Colored leaves thus 
one red, and one yellow surrounded with
black, painted thick, and the whole varnished.
It looked very pretty, and I set it in a frame
which had belonged to a pin of hers, which
she broke long ago - It really had an excellent
effect, quite like a real pin.

We have seen very little of Charlie this
vacation - He has travelled so much, what
with his White Mountain expedition, and other
numerous trips, that he has not been at home
much - He has enjoyed the vacation very
much, and has seen all the wonder, in
accessible distance, which it is possible for
mortals to see in the space of six weeks.

Today is Lucretia's seventeenth birthday. It has
been celebrated with the usual quiet festivities,
and although Sunday, a frosted cake was
produced at tea time, which was eaten in her
honor, in spite of cold roast beef and potatoes.

Have you heard of the splendid new
Museum which Papa
got at Philadelphia
with a marble
top, and
a splendid
looking glass.
Which honors
my room
with its presence.
Papa had fixed a
delightful
bathing tub
large enough to
float in
in the
corner of
her room, with
a screen in
front of it
which screen is
very fine
and thus
I will be excellent
for Lucretia we
think. Lucretia
sent her birthday love,
and a cake etc
to the rest of the
family. Cat is
very complacent
from your sweet
letter.

Dear Elly. We have completed the usual
Sunday evening Psalmody, and it is
9 o'clock as I begin this - Charlie has departed
for Cambridge, the vacation being over.
has been arranging his new room this
and is now I believe quite settled - To think
of his being a Senior! It seems not a
great while since we were surprised at
your being a Senior. Today has been a
bright cool autumn day, the thermometer at 68°.
We have been to Church all day. Papa got
back from his Southern trip this morning
before we were up - He brought a gleat
basket of peaches, which we have been
feasting on. We have been fixing your box, and
filling it with all sorts of things. It was
put on board the R.D. Shephard last
Wednesday, and is expected to sail to-day
or to-morrow. Mother will send a
box of lading to you, when the vessel sails
and another to Mr Hurley, to New
Orleans. So if you discover rather a long
gap between this letter and the last from

home, you must attribute it to our putting
our despatches in the box, though this will
probably reach you before that does.

I spent last week with the Frothing
hams, who are at Hulls Crossing. They
are boarding at the old Hull house, which
is moved down to the space between the Howards
where we stayed, and the Railroad.

I had rather a stupid time because the
amusements were rather of the indoor nature
such as working and reading aloud - We rarely
went out to take a regular walk, and
when we did we wore gloves, veils, and
parasols in a very uncourteous manner.

I believe I have not written to you since
my visit to Thisselwood. I had a splendid
time, bathed every day &c. I took two horse-
back rides, once with Anna ^{Loring} & I on Fanny
and I on Fanny; and the other time I went
on Nelly, and accompanied by the carryall.
Gusie King was in excellent spirits, and we
had many conversations on the fertile subject
of the Clasp of '48. While we were there, there
constant rumors that Mr Haize had taking
lodgings and was coming down, but he did
not appear. We had some Charades one
night. Even there my fate pursued me, which
has decreed that not a ^{month} ~~night~~ shall pass
without that delectable amusement. However
these were very nice indeed. Tom Clarke
[who was there part of the time] and I were
the principal performers, occasionally assisted

by John King. It was a very rainy night so
that we could not go out doors, and it
made the evening pass very pleasantly.
I make excellent progress in the swimming
line - and learnt to float on my back, which
I never could do before. It is a very nice thing
to do in the water, I think, only you
have me under all the time. Did you
ever attempt swimming in this position ~~and~~
I call it "swimming sitting." It is a nice way
it is so comfortable like sitting at your ease
in a nice chair.

Walter Judson swung the hammock while we
were there - it is in a nice place, about where
it was last year I believe. I sat in it almost
every day - I never was in one before -
It is delightful I think. He [Walter] arranged
a rope so that I could swing myself, while
I was in it. The motion is delightful. I
imagined you often reclined in yours on your
piazza in Pensacola, at the very moment
that I was, at Thisselwood.

It is decided that I go to school this
winter - and the fatal note has been written
to Mr Emerson, to see if he will take me.
After my long absence from the Seminary, I
am not violently eager to return but the
cries of neglected education are loud, so go I
must. In the course of a month or two,
I shall be competent to open a correspondence

To Alexander Hale

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August 18, 1850.

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